

Goss's Wilt 101



Growers across Illinois are seeing corn plants dying early due to a severe outbreak of Goss's bacterial wilt, a disease that can kill plants within weeks of infection and cause yield losses approaching 50 percent during severe epidemics. Cases of Goss's wilt have also been confirmed in areas of Iowa, southern Minnesota and Nebraska.

Cause

- The bacterial pathogen overwinters in soil residue.
- There must be injury to the leaves for infection to occur.
- Once the bacterium is splashed up on the injured plant, it can spread very quickly.

Symptoms

- The development of dark green to black water-soaked spots within the infected area which are sometimes called "freckles".
- You may find "ooze" on the surfaces of the leaves – when this dries leaves may glisten and appear shiny on the surface.
- Goss's wilt is often confused with other foliar diseases or misdiagnosed as drought stress.

Management

- Once the bacteria is present in your field, it will always be there.
- Rotation reduces but does not eliminate inoculum from residue.
- Hybrids with tolerance to the disease slow the spread, and will retain more yield than susceptible hybrids.

Why Syngenta?

- Syngenta has one of the deepest corn germplasm pools in the industry. There is no need to rely on a few genetic families, which can expose other weaknesses.
- Syngenta screens hybrids both in the lab and in the field, unlike competitors, and ratings are published online, on tech sheets and in the western version of the seed guides.
- A rating of 4 or better* on Syngenta hybrids indicates good to very good.

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*Syngenta Rating scale: 1-9, 1 = Best

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